

**LAND AT SOUTHROP MANOR FARM  
BARNs  
SOUTHROP  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

*For*

**MICHAEL BERTIOLI**

CA PROJECT: 2670  
CA REPORT: 08206


NOVEMBER 2008



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CA PROJECT: 2670  
CA REPORT: 08206

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date	15 October 2008
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signed	13 November 2008 
date	
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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing location of groundworks (1:500)

## SUMMARY

**Project Name:** Southrop Manor Farm Barns  
**Location:** Southrop, Gloucestershire  
**NGR:** SP 2017 0342  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date:** 10-15 September 2008  
**Planning Reference:** 08/00540/FUL  
**Location of Archive:** To be deposited with Corinium Museum  
**Site Code:** MBL08

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey extension to the rear of the existing barn and plant room at Southrop Manor Farm Barns, Southrop, Gloucestershire.

No features or artefactual material pre-dating the modern period were revealed during the current works.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2008 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Michael Bertoli at Southrop Manor Farm Barns (centred on NGR: SP 2017 0342; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent for a single storey extension to the rear of the existing barn and plant room at Southrop Manor (Planning ref: 08/00540/FUL). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CA (2008) and approved by the local planning authority (Cotswold District Council) acting on the advice of Charles Parry Senior Archaeological Advisor to Gloucestershire County Council. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2001), the *Statement of Standards and Practices Appropriate for Archaeological Fieldwork in Gloucestershire* (GCC 1996) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

### ***The site***

1.3 The village of Southrop lies in east Gloucestershire. Southrop Manor Farm lies immediately east of Southrop Manor and comprises agricultural buildings converted into residential units and offices. The site is approximately 0.4ha.

1.5 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as Aston Limestone Formation of the middle Jurassic Era (BGS 1998). This geology was encountered during excavations.

### ***Archaeological background***

1.6 The development site lies within an area of archaeological potential, being sited close to St Peter's Church which is of possible late Saxo-Norman origin. The current Southrop Manor is largely of 17th-century construction although vestiges of medieval architecture are incorporated into the property (CA 2008).

- 1.7 Archaeological fieldwork within and adjacent to Southrop Manor has previously revealed evidence of Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval activity (GCC 1999 and CA 2005).

### ***Methodology***

- 1.8 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2008). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of a foundation trench (see Fig. 2 for location and extent). To avoid compromising the structural stability of the existing wall, the eastern part of the trench was dug in intermittent stages and underpinned with concrete.
- 1.9 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.10 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with Corinium Museum, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## **2. RESULTS**

- 2.1 Throughout the majority of the site, mechanical removal of topsoil deposit 100 revealed limestone brash 101 at a depth of 0.1m below the present ground level (bpgl). Further mechanical excavation to the formation level for the foundation trench, typically 1.4m bpgl, revealed limestone bedrock 107 overlain by natural clays 106.
- 2.2 Throughout much of the western foundation trench, large, undefined feature 103 was identified cutting topsoil 100. It measured at least 5.5m in length, 1.5m in width and was 1.4m in depth and contained two fills, 102 and 104, from which a small quantity of animal bone and burnt sandstone was retrieved.
- 2.3 No further features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

### **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area, the watching brief identified no archaeological remains pre-dating the modern period within the area of observed groundworks. Throughout much of the western most groundworks, modern feature 103 was observed. The function of this feature remains undetermined, although a broadly comparable, if earlier, feature observed 25m to the west during evaluation trenching in 1999 was interpreted as a possible pond (GCC 1999, trench 2).

### **4. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Bennett and Kathy Aston. The report was written by Philippa Mitcheson. The illustrations were prepared by Rachel Kershaw. The archive has been compiled by Philippa Mitcheson, and prepared for deposition by Kathryn Price. The project was managed for CA by Clifford Bateman.

## 5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 1998 Solid and Drift Edition, Cirencester, Sheet 235

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2005 *Land to the South of Southrop Manor Farm, Southrop, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*. CA typescript Report No. **05092**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 *Land at Southrop Manor, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

GCC (Gloucestershire County Council) 1999 *Manor Farm Barns, Southrop, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation*

GCC (Gloucestershire County Council) 2004 *Manor Farm Barns, Southrop, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief*



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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)
100	Layer	Topsoil: Dark grey brown clay silt containing CBM and limestone fragments			0.1
101	Layer	Natural geology: light orange yellow limestone brash			0.65
102	Fill	Mid grey brown mottled orange silty clay. Secondary fill of 103			1.3
103	Cut	Pit cut			1.4
104	Fill	Dark grey blue silty clay. Primary fill of 103			0.1
105	Layer	Natural geology: Yellow brown sandy clay			0.2
106	Layer	Natural geology: Light grey blue clay			0.3
107	Layer	Natural geology: solid bedrock			

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

### *Finds Concordance*

Context	Artefact type	Count	Weight (g)	Spot-date
102	Fuel ash	1	4	-
	Stone: burnt sandstone	2	36	
	Animal bone: cow-sized	2	18	

**APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project Name	Southrop Manor Farm Barns, Southrop, Gloucestershire	
Short description	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey extension to the rear of the existing barn and plant room at Southrop Manor. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.	
Project dates	10-15 September 2008	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	CA 2005: Archaeological Evaluation Report No. 05092 CA 2008: WSI GCC 2004: Archaeological Watching Brief Site Code: MBL 08	
Future work	Unknown	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site Location	Southrop Manor Farm, Southrop, Gloucestershire	
Study area	0.4ha	
Site co-ordinates	SP 2017 0342	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Clifford Bateman	
Project Supervisor	Jonathan Bennett and Kathy Aston	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>		
	Intended final location of archive	Content
Physical	Corinium Museum	CBM, animal bone
Paper	Corinium Museum	WSI, trench sheets, maps, drawings
Digital	Corinium Museum	Digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2008 <i>Southrop Manor Barns, Southrop, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i> . CA Typescript report <b>08206</b>		